

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims which follows will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) An external segment of a telescoping handle comprising:  
a hole configured to receive a locking pin; and  
a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole, sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and  
the reinforcing mechanism having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and residing flush with an internal surface of the external segment, and  
wherein the reinforcing mechanism is configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.
2. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, further comprising an internal surface comprising an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole and an exterior surface comprising a raised lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the exterior surface form a shoulder~~hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.~~
3. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.
4. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:  
a main body residing adjacent to the hole of the external segment; and

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the external segment; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an exterior surface of the external segment. ~~further comprising an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with the internal surface of the external segment.~~

5. (Amended) The external segment of claim 1, ~~further comprising an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and~~ wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

6. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

7. (Previously Presented) The external segment of claim 1, wherein external segment is constructed using a first material, the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material is stronger than the first material.

8. (Previously Presented) The external segment of claim 7, wherein the first material is aluminum.

9. (Previously Presented) The external segment of claim 7, wherein the second material is stainless steel.

10. (Original) The external segment of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

11. (Amended) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a hole configured to receive the locking pin; and

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and residing flush with an internal surface of the external segment and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

~~and a reinforcing mechanism sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.~~

12. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising an internal surface comprising an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole and an exterior surface comprising a raised lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the exterior surface form a shoulder ~~the hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.~~

13. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

14. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole of the external segment; and

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the external segment; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an exterior surface of the external segment. wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with internal surface of the external segment.

15. (Amended) The telescoping handle of claim 11, ~~wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and~~ wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the internal surface of the external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

16. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

17. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment is constructed using a first material, the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material, and wherein the second material is stronger than the first material.

18. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 17, wherein the first material is aluminum.
19. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 17, wherein the second material is stainless steel.
20. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.
21. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the extended position.
22. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 20, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the inner segment is in the collapsed position.
23. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and the locking pin comprises a second material that is stronger than the first material.
24. (Previously Presented) The telescoping handle of claim 23, wherein the second material is stainless steel.
25. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.

26. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, wherein the external segment further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

27. (Original) The telescoping handle of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

28. (Amended) A transporting device, comprising:

a telescoping handle, the telescoping handle comprising:

an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and

an external segment, the external segment comprising:

a hole configured to receive the locking pin;

a reinforcing mechanism inserted inside the hole having a height substantially greater than a thickness of the external segment and residing flush with the internal surface of the external segment and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin. ~~and a reinforcing mechanism~~

~~sized and shaped to receive the locking pin and configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.~~

29. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface comprising an L-shaped recess surrounding the hole, an exterior surface comprising a raised lip surrounding the hole, wherein the recess of the internal surface and the raised lip of the exterior surface form a shoulder~~the hole is a circular hole and the reinforcing mechanism comprises an eyelet.~~

30. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28 [[29]], wherein the reinforcing mechanism further comprises a washer.

31. (Amended) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises:

a main body residing adjacent to the hole of the external segment;

a lower portion extending orthogonally from the main body and residing flush with the internal surface of the external segment; and

an upper portion extending in a curvature from the main body, the curvature residing adjacent to an exterior surface of the external segment

~~external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides flush with internal surface of the external segment.~~

32. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment further comprises an internal surface that comprises a recess surrounding the hole, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism resides below the

internal surface of the external segment in a direction radially within the internal surface of the external segment.

33. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the reinforcing mechanism comprises a height selected to aid the distribution of the forces imparted by the locking pin.

34. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment is constructed using a first material, and wherein the reinforcing mechanism is constructed using a second material that is stronger than the first material.

35. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 34, wherein the first material is aluminum.

36. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 34, wherein the second material is stainless steel.

37. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the inner segment is configured to slide within the external segment between an extended position and a collapsed position.

38. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking pin is configured to engage the hole when the internal segment is in the extended position.

39. (Original) The transporting device of claim 37, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to engage the hole when the internal mechanism is in the collapsed position.



40. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment comprises a first material, and wherein the locking pin comprises second material that is stronger than the first material.

41. (Previously Presented) The transporting device of claim 40, wherein the second material is stainless steel.

42. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the telescoping handle further comprises an engagement mechanism configured to allow the locking pin to be engaged with and disengaged from the hole.

43. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, wherein the external segment further comprises a plurality of holes, and for each of the plurality of holes, a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

44. (Original) The transporting device of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of telescoping handles, each of the telescoping handles comprising:  
an inner segment, the inner segment comprising a locking pin; and  
an external segment, the external segment comprising a hole configured to receive the locking pin, and a reinforcing mechanism configured to reinforce the hole in such a manner as to distribute forces imparted by the locking pin.

45. (New) A telescoping handle, comprising:

an inner segment and an external segment, the external segment telescopically receiving the inner segment so that the inner segment is

telescopically extendable from the external segment along a longitudinal axis of the external segment;

the inner segment having a locking pin outwardly extending therefrom;

the external segment having a side wall having a hole therethrough, the locking pin being extendable through the hole;

an exterior surface of the side wall having an annular raised lip extending along a periphery of the hole;

an interior surface of the side wall having an annular recess along the periphery of the hole, the recess having a generally L-shaped cross-sectional contour taken along the plane extending through the longitudinal axis of the external segment;

an annular washer positioned against the raised lip and having an outer perimeter with a radius substantially equal to the outer radius of the raised lip;

an eyelet having a middle portion extending through the hole and the washer, and an outer portion outwardly extending from the hole with a curved outer edge curling back towards and in contact with the washer;

the eyelet further having an inner portion extending into the recess of the interior surface of the side wall with an exposed face of the inner portion of the eyelet lying substantially flush with the inner face of the side wall; and

the raised portion, washer and eyelet affording additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to help reduce deformation of the hole by the locking pin when extended through the hole.

46. (New) The telescoping handle of claim 45, wherein the raised portion, washer and eyelet provide additional support to the side wall of the first tubular member to afford an increase by at least 16.5% to a maximum tensile load that can be exerted on the telescoping handle before deformation of the hole.